Reviewing Drought Allocation Norms

5115. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the norms of allocation for drought hit States; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The items and norms of expenditure for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund for natural calamities including drought for the period 2000-05 have been revised recently by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Drought Mitigation Efforts

5116. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the drought has pulled down foodgrains output by 13 per cent as reported in the media, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by Government to face drought during the year;

(d) whether efforts made by Government last year borne fruit;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the latest estimates, against a total foodgrains production of 111.57 million MTs in Kharif, 2001, the figure for Kharif, 2002 is 89.45 million MTs. This decline is attributable to drought.

(c) to (f) The initiatives taken by the Government of India to assist the States affected by drought during 2002-03 include;

(i) Constitution of the Task Force on Drought Management to lay down policies and issue guidelines to deal with drought situation;

(ii) Release of assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) amounting to Rs. 2101.90 crores (after adjustment of Calamity Relief Fund;

(iii) Allocation of food-grains, free of cost, under the Special Component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) Scheme for relief employment;

(iv) Allocation of cattle grade feed to Rajasthan;

(v) Free transportation of water and fodder by the Railways;

(vi) One-time drought relief increase in the procurement of various kharif crops;

(vii) Formulation of a scheme with outlay of Rs. 50 crores for providing assistance to cattle camps; and

(viii) Deputation of Teams led by Senior Officers for assessment of the situation.

Sugar Quota in European Union

5117. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are pressing European Union to open its sugar quota and allow imports of at least one lakh tonnes of the commodity into its member countries;

(b) whether this demand was make by the Agriculture Minister to the EU Trade Commissioner during later's visit to this country;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the EU Government; and

(d) to what extent the EU has agreed on the suggestions made by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The WTO Agreement on Agriculture is presently under negotiations. One of the objectives of India during these negotiations is to seek greater market access for export of Indian agricultural products. As part of the negotiating process India is also making bilateral/pluri-lateral efforts with vairous countries/groups of countries to attain its objective of greater market access. India is having discussions with different countries including European Union (EU) on various aspects of agricultural trade. India has sought greater market access for its agricultural products in the international market. The negotiations on Agreement on Agriculture are continuing.

Effect of Climate Change on Agriculture

5118. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA :

SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to study the impact of climate change on agriculture in view of long bout of freak whether in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of measures need to be adopted to protect hilly areas, coastal eco-system, fisheries and rainfed crops?